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January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

It is time for litigation in the Microsoft antitrust case to come to an end. I am hopeful that you will ensure the settlement that was recently reached between you and Microsoft carried through and this case is finally ended at the federal level.

After three years and great expense to your Department and Microsoft, there is a light at the end of the tunnel in this case: namely the settlement. This settlement by no means lets Microsoft off easy. Included in this settlement are provisions that will change the way Microsoft does business. Microsoft will have to disclose an unheard of amount of proprietary code to competitors under this settlement so these competitors will be able to make better software and compete against Microsoft.

Regrettably extreme anti-Microsoft special interests may try to derail the settlement. They would prefer to see Microsoft damaged rather than see a reasonable conclusion to this case.

Sincerely,

Roger J. Bates